

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT



AND RESEARCH NOTES

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	TITLE: Summary of Farm Bill Activities, FY 2001-02	

USDA Farm Bill programs provide numerous opportunities and incentives to create, enhance, and restore wildlife habitat on privately owned lands in Indiana. The Division of Fish and Wildlife's Private Lands Management Biologists work with state and local USDA offices and program participants to maximize wildlife habitat development and management opportunities through available in each Farm Bill program. Private Lands Management Biologists spent a total of 3,592.5 hours on Farm Bill related activities during the fiscal year of July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002. Biologists provided wildlife habitat management and maintenance recommendations to 147 participants, impacting 3,271.13 acres of privately owned lands. Private Lands Biologists attended 88 Farm Bill related meetings and gave presentations on wildlife habitat improvement at 24 landowner field days regarding Farm Bill programs. A summary of Farm Bill program accomplishments follows.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

CRP is a conservation program designed to take environmentally important land out of agricultural production for 10 to 15 years, depending on the practice selected. Land enrolled in CRP is planted to a conservation cover to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, USDA makes annual payments to the producer and provides cost-share assistance for establishing the conservation cover.

During fiscal year 2001-02, a total of 103 CRP site inspections involving 6,363.53 acres were conducted and resulted in 42 management plans and 44 maintenance plans being prepared on 2,629.16 acres. Table 1 provides a detailed summary of CRP activity. Table 2 provides a detailed summary of CRP management plans developed by conservation practice.

Table 1. Summary of CRP Activity July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002

Activity	Number	Acres Impacted
Burn Plans	3	193.00
CP10 Conversions	7	231.50
Maintenance Plans	44	1486.00
Management Plans	42	718.66
Sub Total:	96	2629.16
Site Inspections	103	6363.53
Site Rankings	0	0.00
Sub Total:	103	6363.53

Table 2. Summary of CRP Practice Accomplishments July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002		
CRP Practice	Management Plans	Acres Impacted
CP-1 Introduced Grasses and Legumes	0	0.00
CP-2 Native Grasses	9	244.80
CP-3 Tree Plantings	1	5.00
CP-4 Permanent Wildlife Habitat	9	295.90
CP-8 Grass Waterways	1	0.00
CP-9 Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife	1	6.00
CP-10 Vegetative Cover – Grass Already Established	11	338.50
CP-12 Food Plots	1	0.30
CP-21 Filter Strips	13	81.53
CP-22 Riparian Buffer	4	72.80
CP-23 Wetland Restoration	2	40.9
Totals:	52	1085.73

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

WHIP is a voluntary program that encourages the creation of high quality wildlife habitats. Through WHIP, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance to landowners to develop upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas. NRCS and the participant enter into a cost-share agreement (generally 5 to 10 years) and NRCS agrees to reimburse up to 75 percent of the cost of installing the wildlife habitat practices, not to exceed individual practice hold-down rates.

During the fiscal year 2001-02, biologists assisted NRCS in the preparation of 170 applications, requesting a total of \$295,000 in funding. A total of 40 site inspections involving 819 acres were conducted and a total of 40 management plans involving 462.97 acres were developed (Table 3). Indiana USDA received \$260,000 in WHIP funds, which allowed the 150 highest-ranking applications to be funded.

Table 3. WHIP Activity July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002		
Activity	Number	Acres Impacted
Burn Plans	0	0.00
CP10 Conversions	0	0.00
Maintenance Plans	6	75.00
Management Plans	40	462.97
Sub Total:	46	537.97
Site Inspections	40	819.00
Site Rankings	170	48.00
Sub Total:	210	867.00

Wetland Reserves Program (WRP)

WRP is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands. Landowners have the option of enrolling in eligible lands in permanent easements, 30-year easements, or 10-year restoration cost-share agreements. The program is offered on a continuous sign-up basis and lands are enrolled into the program through a state ranking process.

During the fiscal year 2001-02, a total of 8 site inspections involving 211 acres were conducted and 1 management plan involving 40 acres was completed (Table 4).

Table 4. WRP Activity July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002		
Activity	Number	Acres Impacted
Burn Plans	0	0.00
CP10 Conversions	0	0.00
Maintenance Plans	0	0.00
Management Plans	1	40.00
Sub Total:	1	40.00
Site Inspections	8	211.00
Site Rankings	3	65.00
Sub Total:	11	276.00

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible agricultural producers for establishing conservation practices to protect soil and water quality. Assistance is targeted to livestock and related natural resource concerns, including wildlife habitat. EQIP reimburses landowners up to 75% of eligible expenses incurred by the landowner for installation of conservation practices specified in an approved application.

During the fiscal year 2001-02, a total of 4 site inspections involving 64.0 acres were conducted and 3 management plans involving 39 acres were completed (Table 5).

Table 5. EQIP Activity July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002		
Activity	Number	Acres Impacted
Burn Plans	0	0.00
CP10 Conversions	0	0.00
Maintenance Plans	1	25.00
Management Plans	3	39.00
Sub Total:	4	64.00
Site Inspections	4	64.00
Site Rankings	0	0.00
Sub Total:	3	64.00